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Informal FBI Request to OTS for Psychological Assessment

19 March

CIA officer [redacted]

Last week the FBI informally, via working-level liaison channels, asked CIA if it could produce a psychological assessment of the reaction of [redacted] if police were to assault their hideout.

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The request was promptly turned down by [redacted] Deputy Chief of the Office of Technical Services, for two reasons.

1. CIA response would be contrary to strict policy guidance to avoid involvement in domestic and/or criminal matters; and,

2. Apart from the above political grounds there are major professional reasons for CIA not to undertake this assessment. Our psychologists and psychiatrists are attuned to an environment which does not involve this type of problem, i.e. the likelihood of violence in response to the threat of violence. Our specialists are concerned with questions of motivation, probable response in the negotiating process and reaction to more subtle pressures. In addition, we are not confident that valid psychological assessments can be made from the limited evidence, consisting of tapes of peoples' voices. The fact that several people are involved further complicates the problem of assessment. Thus, from a purely professional viewpoint CIA does not possess the technical competence to address the problem. The question is really one for the criminal psychologists. Their people are usually on university faculties or in prison work.

19 March

done 26 March 1974
[redacted] has seen 28 March

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